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GENERAL

1. USSR willing to postpone German assets question--The US delegation to the Austrian treaty negotiations in London reports that the Soviet delegate has indicated his willingness to consider other unagreed articles of the treaty in order to avoid an impasse on the question of German assets. According to US representatives in Austria, Soviet Commissioner Kurassow has told Chancellor Figl that the USSR is prepared to agree that an Austrian army should be in existence at the time of the withdrawal of the occupation troops and that such an army may be equipped with either "national or international arms."

(CIA Comment: The willingness of the USSR to by-pass economic issues in order to discuss security clauses and the Soviet stand concerning an Austrian army suggest strongly that the USSR is anxious to conclude an Austrian treaty. CIA does not believe, however, that the USSR has renounced its ultimate intention of incorporating Austria into the Satellite system.)

2. UK-Benelux deal for key CEEC posts reported--US observers at the Paris meeting of the Committee of European Economic Cooperation (CEEC) report that the representatives of the UK and Benelux countries have made a deal to give the UK the chairmanship of both the CEEC council and the key executive committee and to give Belgium the secretary-generalship. The US observers believe that such an arrangement may cause some difficulties with the French who feel that they should have one of the key jobs in the CEEC organization.

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State Dept., DIA reviews completed

Document No. 012NO CHANGE in Class. ☐☐ DECLASSIFIEDClass. CHANGED TO: TS S 0Auth: DDA 1100. 4 Apr 77
DDA 1100. 77/1763Date: 13 MAR 1978 By: 028**CONFIDENTIAL**
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3. SIAM: Moves by anti-Phibul elements--According to US Ambassador Stanton, the Commander-in-Chief of the Siamese Navy and the former Commander-in-Chief of the Siamese Army have made tentative plans to prevent a parliamentary vote of confidence in the Phibul Cabinet when its policies are presented to Parliament on 15 or 16 April. The military leaders hope that Phibul will then resign and make way for a civilian coalition government. Stanton believes that this plan marks the beginning of efforts to unite all elements opposed to Phibul and that the success of these efforts will be dependent upon the withholding of recognition by foreign powers.

(CIA Comment: It is doubtful that the disparate and disunited elements opposed to Phibul can at this time have very much effect upon the Phibul Government.)

UK views on recognition of Phibul Government--US Embassy London has been informed that the UK Foreign Office is considering a statement of disapproval of the change of government in Siam but fears that, unless other countries join in such a step, it will be regarded as "merely a feeble, empty gesture." The Foreign Office has not finally decided what steps to take in the Siamese situation but has instructed the UK Embassy in Bangkok not to reply to any note received from the Phibul Government.

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THE AMERICAS

4. COLOMBIA: Communist responsibility in Bogota uprising--
[redacted] Gilberto Vieira White, the leader of the larger of Colombia's two Communist parties, stated shortly after Gaitan's death that his party was not involved in the assassination, but that he had issued orders for party members to exploit the situation by pillaging stores and committing acts designed to disrupt the Bogota Conference.

(CIA Comment: CIA believes that previous reports regarding relations between Gaitan and the Communists indicate that White's reported statement may be accepted as substantially true.)

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5. VENEZUELA: Alleged plans for sabotage of Venezuelan oil fields--
The US Military and Naval Attaches in Caracas report that

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[redacted] upon the termination of the Bogota
Conference the Communists plan the immediate sabotage of the
Venezuelan oil fields. Such a plan is reportedly held in the Soviet
Embassy in Caracas.

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